

### **Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Strepparola et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,980,642) ("642 Patent").

Claims 1-14 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Strepparola et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,096,240) ("240 Patent").

Applicants respectfully disagree. The present invention as set forth in claim 1 is concerned with a method for removing water from surfaces of substrata, comprising the steps of covering said surface with a composition having a specific weight higher than that of the water and subsequently removing water from the composition by skimming, wherein a composition essentially consisting of the following components is used: (A) and (B) as claimed. A) is a non ionic additive having a fluoropolyether structure with a fluorinated T end group containing one chlorine atom, having the following formula:  $T-OR_f(CFY)-L$  (I), as claimed, wherein the number average molecular weight of the fluoroether part  $T-OR_f$  is in the range 400 - 2,000, and a ratio by weight (K) between the fluorinated part and an L part of the additive is in the range 1.50 - 4.00; n in formula (Ia) is such as the ratio (K) is in the range 1.50 - 4.00. B) is a perfluoropolyether having number average molecular weight in the range 300 - 900, provided that a ratio ( $K'$ ) between the number average molecular weight of the fluoropolyether part  $T-OR_f$  of the additive A) and the number average molecular weight of component B) is higher than 1.60.

The Strepparola et al. references are concerned with compositions and methods for removing water from a surface by covering the surface with such composition. The 240 Patent and 642 Patent are directed to compositions and methods, respectively. For example, the composition consists of: A) a non ionic fluorinated additive formed by a fluorinated part T-OR<sub>f</sub>-CFY- and a non-fluorinated part L wherein the ratio K by weight between the fluorinated part and the non-fluorinated part L is from 1.5 to 4; and B) a perfluoropolyether.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that no invention as claimed is taught or suggested by either of the cited references. Applicants point out that the claimed invention requires that the T fluorinated radical, of the non ionic additive A), contains a chlorine atom and that the K<sup>I</sup> ratio of the number average molecular weight of part T-OR<sub>f</sub>- of the additive A) and perfluoropolyether component B) is higher than 1.6. However, no such element is taught or suggested by any combination of the cited references. Simply put, neither of the Strepparola references contain any teaching or suggestion that a composition having non ionic additive A) containing a chlorine atom in accordance with a T fluorinated radical, as claimed, necessarily has a K<sup>I</sup> ratio higher than 1.6, as also claimed. In fact, it can be seen that when using a composition having the non ionic additive A) with a chlorine atom but a K<sup>I</sup> ratio less than 1.6, the removal of water is not obtained, as is demonstrated by Comparative Examples 3, 4, 5 in comparison to Example 6 of the application. Therefore, in that no combination of the cited references is able to teach or suggest the claimed invention, Applicants urge withdrawal of all rejections.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 108910-00046.

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